

Thomas Mill
West bank of Crum Creek, northwest of
Goshen and Boot Roads junction
Whitehorse Vicinity (Willistown Township)
Chester County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-1214

HABS
PA,
15-WHIHO.V,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

THOMAS MILL

PA,
15-WHIHO.V,
2-

Location: Northwest corner of Coshen Road and Boot Road,
Willistown Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania.

Present Owner: C. G. Allo, Newtown Square, R. D. #1, Pennsylvania.

Brief Statement
of Significance: This mill, erected in 1774 by the miller himself, is
little changed and was in running order within the last
decade.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Isaac Thomas built the mill
1774 on land inherited from his father, Peter Thomas.
2. Date of erection: Date stone in south front - 1774.
3. Architect, builder, suppliers etc.: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction etc.: None known. It was little
changed and was in running order within the last decade. Most
of the machinery is still there, although it has been wrecked
by vandals in the past few years.
5. Notes on alterations and additions: Mill has been little
changed, although there are some replacements. There was an
early 16' extension to the north.
6. Important old views and references:
Views: None known.
References: Sources of information to be found in Chester
County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa. - Classified
printed and manuscript files under the heading: Willistown
Township Lands.
Arthur E. James: Chester County Clocks and Their Makers.
Printed by Horace F. Temple, West Chester, Pa. 1947.

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Isaac Thomas, the
builder, was a man of many parts - a clock maker, joiner, surveyor
farmer and miller. The son, Mordecai, who followed him at the
mill, was also a clock maker and cabinet maker. Both are well
written up in the book by A. E. James: Chester County Clocks and
Their Makers. Printed by Horace F. Temple, West Chester, Pa. 1947.

C. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: None known.

D. Supplemental Material

1. From Original Manuscript of "A Register of the Damages
Sustained by the Inhabitants of the County of Chester in

Pennsylvania from the Troops and Adherents of the King of Great Brittain during the present War agreeable to an Act of General Assembly passed September 21st 1782." - In possession of the Chester County Historical Society, West Chester, Pa.

"Isaac Thomas affirms that a party of British LightHorse Took from him in Sept'r 1777.

2 Horses worth	L 39 . 0 .
By Cash Rec'd York Curry	15 . 0 . "

Prepared by Bart Anderson - August 1958
Curator, Chester County Historical Society

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: This mill is very much as it was when originally built, with most of the machinery still in place.
2. Condition of Fabric: Good.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Mill has full basement plus two-and-a-half stories. Original building is 23 1/2' by 35'6" with 16' extension to the north.
2. Foundations: Stone.
3. Wall construction: Stone.
4. Chimneys: Fireplace was in southwest corner; there is an arch base for fireplace.
5. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: All seem original.
 - b. Windows and shutters: All seem original.
6. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Steep pitch, wood shingle roof; gable ends at north and south.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Original.
 - c. Dormers: None.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: Usual mill plan - attic plus two stories plus basement.
2. Stairways: Old - one interesting one of quartered logs.
3. Flooring: Seems original.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Rough.
5. Doorways and doors: Mostly original.
6. Trim: None.
7. Hardware: Mostly original.
8. Lighting: None.
9. Heating: One fireplace had been in southwest corner, lower floor.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: Mill faces south on a beautiful location on the west bank of Crum Creek.
2. Enclosures: None.
3. Outbuildings: 18th century stone house of builder, Isaac Thomas, nearby.
4. Walks, driveways: None.
5. Landscaping, gardens etc.: Wild.

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